

Follow up: Bystander/Upstander - Green Dot Lesson

Concept: The White Mountains is a novel about a quest to find liberty from the Tripods (the Masters) who control human thought/behavior. Some characters choose not to be bystanders; they discover/calculate their options and create a "GREEN DOT PLAN" in which they decide to take action, leaving Wherton to find a place where they can practice free thought.

Lesson content:

Review the concept of Bystander/Upstander.

1. Who in the novel is a Bystander? Describe the scenes in the book that point to bystander behaviors.

Possible responses: those who have been Capped, such as Jack pp 10-18 – Jack accepts that he must be capped although he has doubts; Eloise serving the Tripods (pp.134-37)

2. Who is an Upstander? Describe the scenes in the book that point to upstander behaviors.

Possible responses: Will (the significance in his name “will” – his decision to leave Wherton – pg 38-39; Ozymandias – pg 35 – recruiting people to resist being Capped; Henry develops into an Upstander as his character grows from the “neighborhood fighter” into a trustworthy partner in resistance; Beanpole – uses his “tremendous brain” for the good of the group as they encounter several obstacles – Beanpole feared that Capping would prevent him from being an inventor (pg 71-72)

3. What is their GREEN DOT PLAN?

Possible responses: To take action against the status quo - to travel to and live in the White Mountains among others who have left a life of luxury to live in “hope and freedom” AND to wage war against the TRIPODS – pp.194-195

Extension Learning – Application to Your Life - Taking Action

Listen to the short radio clip from NPR This I Believe – “If You Don’t Do It, Who Will?”

This clip is a woman’s belief in the need for volunteerism. She describes in simple language how her mother epitomized volunteerism and taught her that contributing to various organizations is the ONLY way to live – to be an active and healthy member of society.

<http://thisibelieve.org/essay/3444/>